

PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-48 (Canceled).

49. (Currently Amended) A method for software configuration management for a computing device having an authentication status, the method comprising:

receiving a request to load available software into an application storage area of the computing device;

determining the authentication status of the computing device, wherein the computing device's authentication status is authenticated ~~positive~~ if at least one piece of the computing device's resident software has been authenticated, and the computing device's authentication status is not authenticated ~~negative~~ if none of the computing device's resident software has been authenticated;

determining an authentication status of the available software, wherein the available software's authentication status is authenticated ~~positive~~ if the available software has been authenticated by the computing device, and the available software's authentication status is not authenticated ~~negative~~ if the available software has not been authenticated by the computing device; and

changing the computing device's authentication status to authenticated ~~positive~~ and loading the available software into the application storage area if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated ~~negative~~ and the available ~~resident~~ software's authentication status is determined to be authenticated ~~positive~~.

50. (Currently Amended) A method for software configuration management as defined in claim 49, wherein the authentication status of the computing device cannot be changed from authenticated ~~positive~~ to not authenticated ~~negative~~.

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51. (Currently Amended) A method for software configuration management as defined in claim 49, wherein:

the computing device's authentication status is represented by a hardware fuse; and

the computing device's authentication status is changed to authenticated ~~positive~~ by blowing the hardware fuse using an electrical current, whereby the computing device's authentication status is not authenticated ~~negative~~ before the hardware fuse is blown, and the computing device's authentication status is authenticated ~~positive~~ after the hardware fuse is blown.

52. (Previously Presented) A method for software configuration management as defined in claim 49, wherein the authentication status of the computing device is indicated by a flag.

53. (Previously Presented) A method for configuration management as defined in claim 49, wherein the computing device is a portable wireless communication device.

54. (Previously Presented) A method for software configuration management as defined in claim 49, wherein:

the computing device's resident software comprises a plurality of resident software programs;

each resident software program has a separate authentication flag to indicate its authentication status; and

computing device's authentication status is determined using the separate authentication flags of the plurality of resident software programs.

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55. (Currently Amended) A method for software configuration management as defined in claim 49, further comprising:

loading the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be authenticated ~~positive~~ and the available ~~resident~~ software's authentication status is determined to be authenticated ~~positive~~, or if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated ~~negative~~ and the available ~~resident~~ software's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated ~~negative~~; and

rejecting the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be authenticated ~~positive~~ and the available ~~resident~~ software's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated ~~negative~~.

56. (Currently Amended) A method for software configuration management as defined in claim 49, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ at least one piece of the computing device's resident software is unrelated to the available software.

57. (Currently Amended) A method for software configuration management as defined in claim 49, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ at least one piece of the computing device's resident software corresponds to the available software.

58. (Currently Amended) A method for software configuration management as defined in claim 49, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ at least one piece of the computing device's resident software is operating system software.

59. (Currently Amended) A computing device having software configuration management, comprising:

a processor configured to:

receive a request to load available software into an application storage area of the computing device;

determine an authentication status of the computing device, wherein the computing device's authentication status is authenticated ~~positive~~ if at least one piece of the computing device's resident software has been authenticated, and the computing device's authentication status is not authenticated ~~negative~~ if none of the computing device's resident software has been authenticated;

determine an authentication status of the available software, wherein the available software's authentication status is authenticated ~~positive~~ if the available software has been authenticated by the computing device, and the available software's authentication status is not authenticated ~~negative~~ if the available software has not been authenticated by the computing device; and

change the computing device's authentication status to authenticated ~~positive~~ and loading the available software into the application storage area if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated ~~negative~~ and the available ~~resident~~ software's authentication status is determined to be authenticated ~~positive~~; and

a memory coupled to the processor for storing data.

60. (Currently Amended) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein the authentication status of the computing device cannot be changed from authenticated ~~positive~~ to not authenticated ~~negative~~.

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61. (Currently Amended) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein:

the computing device's authentication status is represented by a hardware fuse; and

the computing device's authentication status is changed to authenticated ~~positive~~ by blowing the hardware fuse using an electrical current, whereby the computing device's authentication status is not authenticated ~~negative~~ before the hardware fuse is blown, and the computing device's authentication status is authenticated ~~positive~~ after the hardware fuse is blown.

62. (Previously Presented) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein the authentication status of the computing device is indicated by a flag.

63. (Previously Presented) A computing device having configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein the computing device is a portable wireless communication device.

64. (Previously Presented) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein:

the computing device's resident software comprises a plurality of resident software programs;

each resident software program has a separate authentication flag to indicate its authentication status; and

computing device's authentication status is determined using the separate authentication flags of the plurality of resident software programs.

65. (Currently Amended) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein the processor is further configured to:

load the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be authenticated ~~positive~~ and the available ~~resident~~ software's authentication status is determined to be authenticated ~~positive~~, or if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated ~~negative~~ and the available ~~resident~~ software's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated ~~negative~~; and

reject the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be authenticated ~~positive~~ and the available ~~resident~~ software's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated ~~negative~~.

66. (Currently Amended) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein [[the]] at least one piece of the computing device's resident software is unrelated to the available software.

67. (Currently Amended) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein [[the]] at least one piece of the computing device's resident software corresponds to the available software.

68. (Currently Amended) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein [[the]] at least one piece of the computing device's resident software is operating system software.

PATENT

69. (Currently Amended) A storage device ~~computer-readable medium~~ embodying instructions which, when executed by a processor, implement a method for configuration management for a computing device, the method comprising:

receiving a request to load available software into an application storage area of the computing device;

determining an authentication status of the computing device, wherein the computing device's authentication status is authenticated ~~positive~~ if at least one piece of the computing device's resident software has been authenticated, and the computing device's authentication status is not authenticated ~~negative~~ if none of the computing device's resident software has been authenticated;

determining an authentication status of the available software, wherein the available software's authentication status is authenticated ~~positive~~ if the available software has been authenticated by the computing device, and the available software's authentication status is not authenticated ~~negative~~ if the available software has not been authenticated by the computing device; and

changing the computing device's authentication status to authenticated ~~positive~~ and loading the available software into the application storage area if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated ~~negative~~ and the available ~~resident~~ software's authentication status is determined to be authenticated ~~positive~~.

70. (Currently Amended) A storage device ~~computer-readable medium~~ as defined in claim 69, wherein the authentication status of the computing device cannot be changed from authenticated ~~positive~~ to not authenticated ~~negative~~.

71. (Currently Amended) A storage device ~~computer-readable medium~~ as defined in claim 69, wherein the computing device is a portable wireless communication device.

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72. (Currently Amended) A storage device ~~computer-readable medium~~ as defined in claim 69, wherein:

the computing device's resident software comprises a plurality of resident software programs;

each resident software program has a separate authentication flag to indicate its authentication status; and

computing device's authentication status is determined using the separate authentication flags of the plurality of resident software programs.

73. (Currently Amended) A storage device ~~computer-readable medium~~ as defined in claim 69, the method further comprising:

loading the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be authenticated ~~positive~~ and the available ~~resident~~ software's authentication status is determined to be authenticated ~~positive~~, or if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated ~~negative~~ and the available ~~resident~~ software's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated ~~negative~~; and

rejecting the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be authenticated ~~positive~~ and the available ~~resident~~ software's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated ~~negative~~.

74. (Currently Amended) A storage device ~~computer-readable medium~~ as defined in claim 69, wherein [[the]] at least one piece of the computing device's resident software is unrelated to the available software.

75. (Currently Amended) A storage device ~~computer-readable medium~~ as defined in claim 69, wherein [[the]] at least one piece of the computing device's resident software corresponds to the available software.

PATENT

76. (Currently Amended) A storage device ~~computer-readable medium~~ as defined in claim 69, wherein [[the]] at least one piece of the computing device's resident software is operating system software.

77. (Currently Amended) A computing device having software configuration management, comprising:

means for receiving a request to load available software into an application storage area ~~of~~ the computing device;

means for determining an authentication status of the computing device, wherein the computing device's authentication status is authenticated ~~positive~~ if at least one piece of the computing device's resident software has been authenticated, and the computing device's authentication status is not authenticated ~~negative~~ if none of the computing device's resident software has been authenticated;

means for determining an authentication status of the available software, wherein the available software's authentication status is authenticated ~~positive~~ if the available software has been authenticated by the computing device, and the available software's authentication status is not authenticated ~~negative~~ if the available software has not been authenticated by the computing device; and

means for changing the computing device's authentication status to authenticated ~~positive~~ and loading the available software into the application storage area if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated ~~negative~~ and the available ~~resident~~ software's authentication status is determined to be authenticated ~~positive~~.

78. (Currently Amended) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 77, wherein the authentication status of the computing device cannot be changed from authenticated ~~positive~~ to not authenticated ~~negative~~.

79. (Previously Presented) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 77, wherein the authentication status of the computing device is indicated by a flag.

80. (Previously Presented) A computing device having configuration management as defined in claim 77, wherein the computing device is a portable wireless communication device.

81. (Previously Presented) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 77, wherein:

the computing device's resident software comprises a plurality of resident software programs;

each resident software program has a separate authentication flag to indicate its authentication status; and

computing device's authentication status is determined using the separate authentication flags of the plurality of resident software programs.

82. (Currently Amended) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 77, further comprising:

means for loading the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be authenticated ~~positive~~ and the available ~~resident~~ software's authentication status is determined to be authenticated ~~positive~~, or if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated ~~negative~~ and the available ~~resident~~ software's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated ~~negative~~; and

means for rejecting the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be authenticated ~~positive~~ and the available ~~resident~~ software's authentication status is determined to be not authenticated ~~negative~~.

83. (Currently Amended) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 77, wherein [[the]] at least one piece of the computing device's resident software is unrelated to the available software.

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84. (Currently Amended) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 77, wherein [[the]] at least one piece of the computing device's resident software corresponds to the available software.

85. (Currently Amended) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 77, wherein [[the]] at least one piece of the computing device's resident software is operating system software.